

TRANSCRIPT OF BROADCAST

by
Fulton Lewis, Jr.

Station WGMS at 7-7:15 P. M.
18 February 1958

Now, in answer to the indignant denials by the Crusade for Freedom and Radio Free Europe of my disclosures about the long series of defections that have taken place from the Free Europe operation in Munich back to behind the iron curtain, I have had my correspondents in Munich do a careful recheck of the Free Europe files. And they've come up with a stack of photostated information and documentation establishing the facts in each of the cases that I cited and in several additional cases as well.

One of the additional cases was that of a man named Bohumil Lausman, who supplied information to Radio Free Europe for pay, wrote broadcasts for them for pay, and I have here photostat of his work record from the Free Europe file, which shows that among other items he did a script called "I Met Stalin," another on Gottwald, the Stalinist dictator of Czechoslovakia until his recent death. And here are two: "Laborer Number 597 and Laborer Number 771. Thus, there's no question about Mr. Lausman having been employed by the Radio Free Europe operations in Munich, regardless of what Radio Free Europe in New York may say.

The amazing part of the Lausman case is that Lausman had been deputy premier of the red government of Czechoslovakia under Gottwald--this is the Stalinist Communist government mind you--until he fled the country in 1950. He'd been head of the extreme left Social Democratic party and one of the outstanding Communist collaborators in the period leading up to the Communist coup d'etat in February 1948.

Also from the Free Europe files, I have a photostat of item number 05757-53 and 05722-53--which are evaluations of the information which Lausman was supplying to Radio Free Europe during this period. Both of them are critical, suggesting that Lausman is not providing anything new or important, but they were hiring him anyway. I have also a letter written about a week after Lausman made his ostensible defection to the free world in 1950, and, in spite of this letter, he was given his later employment by Free Europe. The letter was written by the chairman of the Social Democratic party in exile--those who refused to go along with the Communists--and was addressed to all members of the party in exile all over the world.

The letter reads as follows: "Dear Comrades: Some press associations have carried the news that a former chairman of the party, Bohumil Lausman, left Czechoslovakia and is now in Germany. At the same time, we received several inquiries concerning the party's standpoint toward Bohumil Lausman, with regards to his attitude during and after the February coup. Because you will obviously be forced to reply to such inquiries, too, we inform you that the presidium of the party dealt with this question and stated unanimously that Bohumil Lausman, in sharp disagreement with the will of the membership clearly expressed by the congress at ERNO, joined in the critical days of the February Communist coup the traitors of democracy and socialism and actively assisted the suppression of the Czechoslovak social democracy. Therefore, Bohumil Lausman is no member of the Czechoslovak Social Democratic party as expressed by the decision of the central executive committee of the party on November 8, 1948, which was published in circular number 4. We ask you to take cognizance of this and act accordingly. With comradely greetings for the Czechoslovak social democracy. Signed, Bachlov Meyer, chairman; Villiam, secretary."

In short, Bohumil Lausman was so far to the left and so much of a traitor to his countrymen and a betrayer to Communism that even his extreme left-wing Social Democratic party denounced and repudiated him, but Radio Free Europe hired him, nevertheless.

Now a clipping from the New York Herald Tribune of May 17, 1954. Vienna: "A former leading Czechoslovak anti-Communist who fled to the West four years ago turned up back in his red-ruled homeland today in time to harangue Czech voters against American on a day set for local elections." All Czech radio stations carried a broadcast by former Deputy Premier Bohumil Lausman, who fled to the West on New Year's Day of 1950. Lausman later was restored to top rank in the Communist government in Prague to such a degree that other defectors made mention of the fact, and the files show that they said that they, too, were returning to Prague to get a high job such as this. Here then is one of Radio Free Europe's defectors who, they say, did not defect. Remember this information is from their own files.

Tomorrow night, ladies and gentlemen, I expect to have a special guest in the person of a man who has been living in Munich, Germany, throughout the period of the Radio Free Europe operation there, has made a careful personal study of it and who knows, first hand, exactly what the Radio Free Europe propaganda does say.

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I have here tonight from the files of Radio Free Europe, in Munich, the sample Czech-language script by way of letting you know just what sort of stuff your freedom dollars are paying for, whether its a message of freedom, encouragement to those people, giving them hope for liberation from their Communist masters, or whether, in fact, it is propaganda to the end of national Communism instead of Russian Communism. The best way I know to find out is to read some of the broadcasts themselves, which none of the high-powered top side people who are so busy defending the operation seem to have done.

This particular script was on October 22, 1956, immediately after the suppression of the revolution in Poland by Gomulka with the help of the Russian tanks. It was Radio Free Europe's report to the people of Czechoslovakia on the collapse of that revolution. I have had it translated and see if this sounds to you like the message of democracy and freedom. "I wish all working people in Czechoslovakia may see on TV the reports from Polish plants. Today is Monday, that is a working day, but never have Polish workers come back to their plants in such a good mood. Their faces are gay, their eyes smiling, their moods like in a fairy tale. What is the reason for that change? What is happening these hours in Polish plants, why without any pressure from above, without Sunday agitation and broadcasting, without all these known methods the Communists use in organizing their plant gatherings, why, ask we, are today the courtyards and halls of Polish industrial plants filled spontaneously? Why in offices, schools, and schoolhouses do the people explain without any preparation, as it were on a unanimous order of their conscience, the greeting: 'Long live Gomulka?' Why from all Polish factories, greetings, telegrams, are all kinds of resolutions being dispatched to Warsaw? That Monday morning, in all factories, have gathered-- not secretaries to the party or bureaucracy with directors-- but simple workers."

That is Free Europe's report, part of it on the collapse of the Polish revolution of October 1956. The broadcaster was one Carroll Dupeka; the file number is A170A.